

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Washington, D. C.

September 26, 1951

My dear Mr. Welles:

The Department has under consideration a request from Senator McCarran of Nevada for information concerning a meeting which purportedly took place between Mr. Earl Browder, Mr. Robert Minor, Mr. Lauchlin Currie, and you at the State Department, October 12, 1942 to discuss American policy toward China. Mr. Browder testified before a Senate Committee headed by Senator Tydings in May 1950 that you handed him a written statement of the United States Government's views on the Far East at the conclusion of this meeting.

Although a very careful search has been made of the Department's files, we have not been able to locate the statement described by Mr. Browder or any record of your conversation with him. The files do reveal, however, that Mr. Browder released to the press and the Daily Worker published October 16, 1942, the text of a memorandum allegedly handed to him by you.

It is realized that it is difficult to recall details of events which transpired many years ago, but it would be greatly appreciated if you could furnish the Department such details concerning this matter as you might have available. In this connection it might be helpful to you to read the enclosed statements by Mr. Browder taken from the Daily Worker.

I am most reluctant to bother you with this request, but the absence of sufficient information in the Department's files has led us to seek your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Dean Rusk  
Assistant Secretary  
for Far Eastern Affairs

Enclosures:

Daily Worker, October 4, 1942  
and October 16, 1942.

The Honorable  
Sumner Welles;  
Oxon Hill, Maryland

---

SUMNER WELLES

Oxon Hill Manor  
Oxon Hill, Maryland

October 10, 1951

My dear Mr. Rusk:

I have been away from home for some time and your letter of September 26, last, has consequently only now been brought to my attention. I regret the delay in replying to your enquiry.

In view of the many years that have passed since the interview to which you refer in your letter, it is unfortunately very difficult for me to recollect in any detail what took place during the course of the interview. Of one thing, however, I am certain, and that is that any memorandum that may have been handed to Mr. Browder at that time was not prepared by myself, but by the Far Eastern Division under the supervision of either Dr. Hornbeck or Mr. Max Hamilton. There is no copy of any such memorandum in my own files.

I also think I am correct in my recollection that some official of the Far Eastern Division was present at the interview and subsequently prepared at my request a memorandum of the conversation that took place.